

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 SY-05 /083 W
-----117079 061055Z /14

P R 061000Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8502
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE 5345
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7622

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, PK, IZ, PLO

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON PLO ISLAMABAD OFFICE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. PAK PRESS AUGUST 5 CARRIES ACCOUNT OF TERRORIST ATTACK
ON ISLAMABAD PLO OFFICE

2. THE PRESS SAYS THAT AT 11:30 A.M. AUGUST 4 TWO "UNIDENT-
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IFIED PERSONS" GOT OUT OF A GREEN TOYOTA NEAR THE PLO OFFICE
(COMMENT: A HOUSE IN A PRIMARILY RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD),
WALKED A SHORT DISTANCE TO THE FRONT GATE, AND OPENED FIRE
WITH A SUBMACHINE GUN WHICH HAD BEEN CONCEALED IN A BRIEF-
CASE, KILLING A PAKISTANI POLICEMAN ON DUTY AT THE HOUSE.

3. THE ATTACKERS THEN MOVED TOWARD THE BUILDING,

KILLING (AS HE EXITED THE PREMISES) SAAD ABU NASEER, A PALESTINIAN IDENTIFIED AS A "WIRELESS OPERATOR." THE GUNMEN THEN WENT INSIDE THE OFFICES AND KILLED UMAR KHANFAR, A PALESTINIAN STUDENT AT RAWALPINDI MEDICAL COLLEGE, AND MOHAMMAD AL-HASAN, IDENTIFIED AS A PALESTINIAN "OFFICER UNDER TRAINING IN PAKISTAN."

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE TWO ATTACKERS THEN BEGAN A SEARCH OF THE BUILDING FOR PLO REPRESENTATIVE YUSUF ABU HANTASH. HANTASH, ACCORDING TO HIS OWN ACCOUNT, STAYED IN HIS ROOM, AND THE ATTACKERS LEFT WITHOUT FINDING HIM. AS THE TWO FLED, THEY THREW ONE OR TWO HAND GRENADES TO COVER THEIR ESCAPE. 5. THE POLICE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE ABOUT 20 MINUTES AFTER THE ATTACK AND BEGAN A HUNT FOR THE ASSAILANTS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ARRESTS, AND THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

6. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, THE PLO REP ACCUSED AN "ARAB COUNTRY" OF THE KILLINGS, AND SAID THAT THE ATTACKERS' ACCENTS "GAVE AWAY THEIR ORIGIN" (BBC REPORTED IRAQI ACCENTS). THE PRESS HAS IDENTIFIED THE ATTACKERS SIMPLY AS "UNKNOWN YOUTHS." STORIES ALSO NOTE THAT 80 TO 100 EMPTY CARTRIDGES WERE FOUND ON THE PREMISES AND "ARE SAID TO BE SOVIET-MADE". END UNCLASSIFIED

7. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: IN A CONVERSATION WITH A CONFIDENTIAL

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WESTERN REPORTER AUGUST 4, PLO REP HANTASH, COMMENTING ON THE AUGUST 2 ATTACK ON THE IRAQI CONGEN IN KARACHI, SAID THAT "WHILE THE PLO'S GUNS REMAIN POINTED AT THE PRIMARY ENEMY, SOME OF OUR WEAPONS CAN BE TEMPORARILY TRAINED ON OTHER OPPONENTS."

8. WHEN ASKED AUGUST 3 FOR COMMENT ON THE KARACHI ATTACK, AN MFA OFFICIAL TOLD A REPORTER THAT THE MFA HAD NONE, AS THEY "WERE NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED IN A DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS (SIC)." THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOP COMMENT ON EITHER INCIDENT. END CONFIDENTIAL. HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA07622
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780322-0350
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780893/aaaadagl.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 84751d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1824198
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTACK ON PLO ISLAMABAD OFFICE BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, PLOS, PK, IZ, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/84751d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014